



Australian Government  
Department of Health  
and Aged Care

# TODAY'S NEWS

Tuesday, 29th October 2024

[Minister Butler](#) | [Minister Wells](#) | [Assistant Minister McBride](#)  
| [Assistant Minister Kearney](#) | [Assistant Minister Thwaites](#) | [Department](#)  
| [Vaccines](#) | [Ageing and Aged Care](#) | [Population Health](#)  
| [Cancer, Hearing and Chronic Conditions](#) | [Primary Care](#)  
| [Mental Health and Suicide Prevention](#) | [Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office](#)  
| [Health Workforce](#) | [Technology Assessment and Access](#)  
| [Medicare Benefits and Digital Health](#) | [Benefits Integrity](#)  
| [Health Systems Strategies](#) | [Sport](#) | [Health Economics and Research](#) |  
[First Nations Health](#) | [Interim Australian CDC](#) | [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#)  
| [Office of Drug Control](#) | [Food Standards](#) | [AICIS](#)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian](#)** (page 1) reports lower socio-economic areas are recording higher rates of heart attacks, cancer and chronic diseases while wealthier suburbs have recorded reductions, according to a report from Victoria University, leading to calls for more preventable health measures to combat rising inequality.
- **[The Age](#)** (page 3) reports medicinal cannabis provider Montu is requesting the Federal Court order a takedown of an Age news story claiming Montu unlawfully advertised cannabis products, as alleged by the TGA in an ongoing dispute.
- **[The Northern Territory News](#)** (page 4) reports vaccination rates in children have fallen for the third year in a row, according to the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance report. *Also reported by:* [Courier Mail](#), [Geelong Advertiser](#), [Hobart Mercury](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin](#), [Townsville Bulletin](#)
- **[The Border Mail](#)** (page 8) reports Liberal MP Sussan Ley has said state governments must take responsibility for funding their own hospital construction after NSW Health Minister Ryan Park met with Federal Health Minister Mark Butler to request additional funding for the Border Hospital project.

- [The Age](#) (page 10) reports rural communities are facing a shortage of pharmacists, according to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, which predicts regional Australia will have half the number of pharmacists per 100,000 people than urban areas by 2027.
- [ABC](#) featured a Q+A panel discussion with Health Minister Mark Butler, who said the federal government has tripled bulk-billing incentives for doctors, funded endometriosis clinics to help fight medical misogyny and made sweeping changes to vaping regulations in their first term.

## MINISTER BUTLER

### On federal cash for hospital, Sussan says states are dreaming

Border Mail, General News, 29/10/2024, Beau Greenway, Page 8

Farrer MP Sussan Ley says the NSW and Victorian governments would be laughed out of the federal health minister's office if they requested extra Commonwealth funding for the Border's hospital project. Ms Ley commented on Monday after Albury MP Justin Clancy confirmed he had met with NSW Health Minister Ryan Park earlier this month to urge him to request that federal Health Minister Mark Butler be open to further contributing to the \$558 million already set aside by the NSW, Victorian, and Australian governments to redevelop Albury hospital.

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### ABC's Q+A program discusses medical misogyny hitting Aussie women

The Australian, Other, 28/10/2024, Duncan Evans

"Medical misogyny" in the Australian healthcare system has been called out as a major issue. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler said he had heard "appalling" stories of young women not receiving a diagnosis for painful conditions.

Also reported by: [NEWS.com.au \(Online\)](#), [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Sky News Australia \(Online\)](#), [Daily Mercury News \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Online\)](#), [Augusta-Margaret River Times \(Online\)](#), [West Australian \(Online\)](#), [Harvey-Waroona Reporter \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

### Patients will pay price if NSW slugs private health insurers

Brisbane Times, Other, 28/10/2024, Dr Nick Coatsworth

The NSW government's legislation on private health insurers, which passed through parliament on Friday, is a disturbing strategy that uses privately insured patients as a bargaining tool in a dispute between insurers and government. [...] The federal government, particularly Treasurer Jim Chalmers and Health Minister Mark Butler, should have intervened to prevent this measure from progressing.

[Read More](#)

### Healthcare affordability crisis poll shows millions skipping treatment and struggling to find bulk-billing doctors

ABC Online, Other, 28/10/2024, Jason Whittaker

Almost half of all Australians have put off the medical treatment they need due to the cost, exclusive research for the ABC's Q+A has found. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler, who was shown the new polling ahead of his appearance on Q+A tonight, admitted: "We know there is more to do."

Also reported by: [Your Life Choices \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

### What happened when Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler called in to Oak Tree Retirement Villages Rutherford

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/10/2024, Ian Horswill

Paterson MP Meryl Swanson called Tiffany O'Brien, Village Manager at the retirement village in Maitland, 166km north of Sydney's CBD, and asked if it would be possible if the Minister and herself

could call in for a "meet and greet". Then the meeting was confirmed and the Minister and the MP turned up at the retirement village last Tuesday (22 October).

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## The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus a comprehensive list of consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 28/10/2024, Melissa Sweet

The Federal Government's failure to properly respond to a Senate inquiry's report into mental health and suicide prevention – which was published in late 2021, before the Albanese Government's election – has been described as "distressing and disrespectful", and "an absolute waste of time and effort" for all who contributed. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced funding to "accelerate the development of a national targeted skin cancer screening roadmap".

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## Insurance hike for hospitals

FinanceCareer, Other, 28/10/2024

The NSW Government is imposing a new tax hike on private health insurers. [...] Insurers may use it to argue for higher national premium rises, with negotiations set to begin with Health Minister Mark Butler.

[Read More](#)

## ABC, Q and A, 28/10/2024, Patricia Karvelas

Continuing panel discussion with Minister for Health Mark Butler, Melbourne GP Preeya Alexander, Independent MP Monique Ryan, and former NSW minister for regional and mental health Bronnie Taylor. Karvelas discusses the government's ongoing plans for women's health. Alexander says that medical misogyny exists in healthcare, with women historically underrepresented in medical trials. Ryan notes working with Assistant Minister Ged Kearney on the issue. Butler says that they are funding endometriosis clinics around the country.

*Also reported by: ABC (Adelaide), ABC (Brisbane), ABC (Canberra), ABC (Hobart), ABC (Melbourne), ABC (Perth), ABC (Regional NSW), ABC (Regional Queensland), ABC (Regional Victoria)*

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## ABC, Q and A, 28/10/2024, Patricia Karvelas

Panel discussion with Minister for Health Mark Butler, Melbourne GP Preeya Alexander, Independent MP Monique Ryan, former NSW minister Bronnie Taylor, and journalist Johann Hari. Alexander says GPs are leaving the profession due to stagnant Medicare rebates and rising costs. Butler notes the recent Medicare rebate increases and tripling of bulk billing incentives, stressing the need to attract medical graduates to general practice. He addresses concerns from pharmacists about changes to vaping regulations and the lack of TGA-approved vapes. He details new requirements for pre-approval for vapes imported into Australia, noting they will require a license from the Office of Drug Control.

*Panel discussion continues on: [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), ABC (Adelaide), ABC (Brisbane), ABC (Canberra), ABC (Hobart), ABC (Melbourne), ABC (Perth), ABC (Regional NSW), ABC (Regional Queensland), ABC (Regional Victoria), ABC (Adelaide), ABC (Brisbane), ABC (Canberra), ABC (Hobart), ABC (Melbourne), ABC (Perth), ABC (Regional NSW), ABC (Regional Queensland), ABC (Regional Victoria)*

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## 2SM, Afternoons, 28/10/2024, Pete Davis

New polling by YouGov shows nearly half of Australians have postponed necessary medical treatment due to costs, while three-quarters have struggled to find a bulk-billing doctor despite government incentives. The findings suggest strong public support for expanding subsidised care, particularly for dental coverage. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has noted that a \$3.5 billion investment in bulk billing has led to 5 million additional no-fee GP visits since last November.

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## ABC Radio Sydney, Breakfast, 28/10/2024, Craig Reucassel

ABC state reporter Nick Dole reports the NSW government has won a dispute with major private health

insurers over full payments for single hospital rooms. HCF has agreed to pay, but insurers warn the levy could increase family premiums by \$150 annually, potentially leading to more people dropping their coverage. Federal Health Minister Mark Butler has indicated that a levy increase would factor into his decision regarding premium approvals.

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[Back to Top](#)

## MINISTER WELLS

### **New Queensland premier David Crisafulli drops big hint on the future of 2032 Olympics stadium**

Sky News Australia, Other, 28/10/2024, Tyrone Clarke

New Queensland Premier David Crisafulli has discussed the future of Brisbane's Olympic Games with the Prime Minister and again disparaged Labor's plan for the marquee stadium build. [...] He also confirmed he spoke to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Sports Minister Anika Wells about the Olympic infrastructure.

[Read More](#)

### **ABC Radio Hobart, 13:00 News, 28/10/2024**

More than 1,500 vulnerable Tasmanians are currently waiting to receive federal home care packages, which are tailored to individual needs. The latest data reveals that some individuals have been waiting for up to a year for their approved support. Chris Grice, CEO of National Seniors Australia, attributes these delays to the government prioritising those with the highest levels of need. Aged Care Minister Anika Wells has been contacted for comment.

*Also reported by: ABC Northern Tasmania (Launceston), Radio National (Hobart)*

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER MCBRIDE

### **NT Health boss tells AMANT protest 'not acceptable' as minister backs out of medical conference**

Herald Sun, Other, 28/10/2024, Fia Walsh

NT health has told the union to rein in medical staff who planned a protest against Health Minister Steve Edgington, leaked emails have revealed, prompting concerns of overreach from the department. [...] Ms Rutherford said federal Assistant Rural Health Minister Emma McBride also cancelled her attendance due to competing priorities.

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### **Headspace opens its doors in Edmondson Park**

South West Voice, Other, 28/10/2024, Eric Kontos

Young people across South Western Sydney now have better access to mental health care and support with the opening of the new headspace at Edmondson Park. Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Emma McBride officially opened the new service a week ago alongside the Member for Werriwa, Anne Stanley.

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### **ABC Central Coast, Breakfast, 28/10/2024, Scott Levi**

Interview with John Brogden, author, former leader of the opposition and author, on his new book 'Profiles in Hope.' Brogden says his new book shares mental health stories from both famous figures and everyday people. He notes that Emma McBride, Assistant Minister for Mental Health, represents a

positive influence on the Central Coast. He believes that sharing personal stories can help the community confront and better understand suicide and mental health crises.

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER KEARNEY

### The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus a comprehensive list of consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 28/10/2024, Melissa Sweet

The Federal Government's failure to properly respond to a Senate inquiry's report into mental health and suicide prevention – which was published in late 2021, before the Albanese Government's election – has been described as "distressing and disrespectful", and "an absolute waste of time and effort" for all who contributed. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced funding to "accelerate the development of a national targeted skin cancer screening roadmap".

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### ABC, Q and A, 28/10/2024, Patricia Karvelas

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*Also reported by: ABC (Adelaide), ABC (Brisbane), ABC (Canberra), ABC (Hobart), ABC (Melbourne), ABC (Perth), ABC (Regional NSW), ABC (Regional Queensland), ABC (Regional Victoria)*

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[Back to Top](#)

## ASSISTANT MINISTER THWAITES

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[Back to Top](#)

## DEPARTMENT

### The Zap: latest health and aged care news, plus a comprehensive list of consultations now open

Croakey, Other, 28/10/2024, Melissa Sweet

The Federal Government's failure to properly respond to a Senate inquiry's report into mental health and suicide prevention – which was published in late 2021, before the Albanese Government's election – has been described as "distressing and disrespectful", and "an absolute waste of time and effort" for all who contributed. [...] Health Minister Mark Butler announced funding to "accelerate the development of a national targeted skin cancer screening roadmap".

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### Report reflects on gender diversity in digital health

Hospital and Healthcare, Other, 28/10/2024

While more women are choosing to continue their careers in digital health, the gender pay gap continues to exist, according to the Gender Diversity in Australia's Digital Health Workforce 2024 Report. [...] The 2023 census was facilitated by the DHCRC in partnership with RMIT University, The

University of Melbourne, Telstra Health and the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care, working closely with a number of agencies including the Australian Library and Information Association Health Libraries Australia, the Australasian Institute of Digital Health and the Health Information Management Association of Australia.

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## Ongoing decline in childhood immunisation rates sparks concerns

Science Media Exchange (Scimex), Other, 28/10/2024

Vaccination coverage rates among children in Australia have declined for the third consecutive year, the latest annual immunisation coverage report from the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) has revealed. [...] This work is funded through agreements with the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.

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[Back to Top](#)

## VACCINES

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## AGEING AND AGED CARE

### 'Aged care is not being a doctor-saint, making deep sacrifices for higher good — the rewards are in front of you'

Australian Doctor, Other, 28/10/2024

Louisa, 78 and in a wheelchair as a result of rheumatoid arthritis, ends up in hospital every six weeks with urosepsis from her suprapubic catheter. Graham, 80 and in the dementia secure unit with end-stage Alzheimer's, has been transferred to hospital three times in the past year for sepsis and acute kidney injury because his GP "does not visit".

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### ACCPA announces new brand – Ageing Australia – and expanded mission to represent retirement villages and social housing

The Weekly Source, Other, 28/10/2024, Chris Baynes

In front of 2,300 delegates, ACCPA CEO Tom Symondson declared that with 300 members that operate retirement villages plus social housing, its time to be recognised as an innovative voice. He said Aged & Community Care Providers Association (ACCPA) doesn't 'talk' about what they do. He cited palliative care and voluntary assisted dying, as well as retirement living and seniors housing being services ACCPA members deliver.

[Read More](#)

### ABC Radio Hobart, Statewide Mornings, 28/10/2024, Leon Compton

Interview with Chris Grice, CEO, National Seniors Australia, on the significant delays in the aged care system. Grice notes that wait times of 12 to 15 months for My Aged Care support packages are pushing individuals into higher care levels. He advocates for policy changes to boost workforce participation, including more funding and workforce development, to tackle systemic issues in aged care.

Interview continues on: [ABC Radio Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC Northern Tasmania \(Launceston\)](#), [ABC Northern Tasmania \(Launceston\)](#)

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[Back to Top](#)

## POPULATION HEALTH

### 66 dead kids, 5400 claims of abuse in tragic report

Age, General News, 29/10/2024, Kieran Rooney, Page 1

Victoria's child-protection department has received 66 reports of deaths of children, most of them younger than two years old, who were either inside or known to the system in the past four years. [...] "Another report released this week by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare also found that almost two-thirds of young people in Victoria and the nation's youth justice system had interactions with the child-protection sector within the past 10 years".

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### \$1m lighter on tobacco

Herald Sun, General News, 29/10/2024, Jon Kaila, Page 1

People caught selling illicit tobacco would be fined up to \$1m for a first offence under a bold plan proposed by the state opposition. The Coalition said it was fed up with the inaction of the Labor government and would introduce a private member's Bill on Tuesday detailing its tobacco licensing scheme.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [Geelong Advertiser \(Online\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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### Halloween has scary decay consequences

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/10/2024, Page 11

The scariest thing about Halloween is likely to be children's huge consumption of sugar. Australian Dental Association president Scott Davis said more than 70 per cent of Aussie kids had more than the recommended daily amount of sugar.

Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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### Debating tobacco tax

Launceston Examiner, General News, 29/10/2024, Page 11

The Great Tobacco Tax Debate has commenced. Formerly, with bipartisan support to tax tobacco heavily to dissuade or discontinue usage was within the realm of public health, the unfortunate trade of illegal tobacco is becoming a major societal and criminal problem.

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### 'Most vulnerable' half of detained kids

Newcastle Herald, General News, 29/10/2024, Gabriel Fowler, Page 4

Kids in out-of-home-care are more likely to end up being incarcerated, and the more homes they are shuffled between the more likely that is. [...] Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are significantly more likely to experience the crossover, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report says.

Also reported by: [Newcastle Herald \(Online\)](#).

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### The brothers making a fortune revolutionising healthcare with AI

Australian Financial Review, Other, 28/10/2024, Yolanda Redrup

When Aengus and Dimitry Tran were growing up in Ho Chi Minh City, one of the family's most treasured possessions was a computer. Sent to their father by an uncle who lived in France, it was one of the first computers in Vietnam.

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## Incoming Queensland premier says 'adult time for adult crime' will become law by Christmas

SBS, Other, 28/10/2024, Rudi Maxwell

Despite Indigenous, legal, children's and human rights advocates pointing out that harsher penalties for kids don't make the community safer, the Liberal National Party says it will follow through on its election promises about youth justice. [...] Last week the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) released a report that found almost two-thirds of young people who had been in the youth justice system during 2022–23 had also had an interaction with the child protection system in the past 10 years and that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are significantly more likely to experience this crossover.

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[Back to Top](#)

## CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

### Health risks higher in poorer areas

The Australian, General News, 29/10/2024, Natasha Robinson, Page 1

Rates of heart attack, cancer, diabetes and other chronic diseases are decreasing in the nation's wealthiest postcodes but escalating in disadvantaged areas, a major report has found. The Victoria University report, Australia's Health Tracker: Chronic Conditions by Socioeconomic Status, finds that the incidence of cancer, diabetes and lung disease is three times higher in the poorest postcodes, while heart attacks and stroke are twice as common, sparking calls for a renewed focus on preventive health.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Online\)](#).

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### Stigma the biggest hurdle of finding love with Crohn's

Age, General News, 29/10/2024, Lauren Ironmonger, Page 16

When Harrison Kefford, a 30-year-old writer from Melbourne, underwent surgery to remove the diseased part of his bowel caused by Crohn's, the main thing on his mind wasn't the pain or the practicalities of his new stoma bag. It was how it affected him socially.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#).

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### Channel 9, A Current Affair, 28/10/2024, Allison Langdon

Interview with Professor Richard Scolyer, cancer researcher. Langdon reports Scolyer was diagnosed 18 months ago with grade four glioblastoma, a brain cancer with a survival window typically lasting 6-9 months. Scolyer discusses undergoing experimental immunotherapy treatment, originally designed for melanoma, with his scans now showing no recurrence. He credits the groundbreaking work of his team at the Melanoma Institute, hoping his treatment success might pave the way for broader trials.

Interview continues on: [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 9 Darwin \(Darwin\)](#), [Channel 9 Gold Coast \(Gold Coast North\)](#), [Imparja Alice Springs \(Alice Springs\)](#), [Imparja Longreach \(Longreach\)](#), [Imparja Mt Isa \(Mt Isa\)](#), [NBN Central Coast \(Gosford\)](#), [NBN Coffs Harbour \(Coffs Harbour\)](#), [NBN Gold Coast \(Gold Coast\)](#), [NBN Lismore \(Lismore\)](#), [NBN Newcastle Hunter \(Newcastle\)](#), [NBN Tamworth \(Tamworth\)](#), [NBN Taree \(Taree\)](#), [WIN Ballarat \(Ballarat\)](#), [WIN Bendigo \(Bendigo\)](#), [WIN Cairns \(Cairns\)](#), [WIN Canberra \(Canberra\)](#), [WIN Dubbo \(Dubbo\)](#), [WIN Gippsland \(Sale\)](#), [WIN Griffith \(Griffith\)](#), [WIN Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [WIN Mackay \(Mackay\)](#), [WIN Mildura \(Mildura\)](#), [WIN Mt Gambier \(Mt Gambier\)](#), [WIN Orange \(Orange\)](#), [WIN Riverland \(Berri\)](#), [WIN Rockhampton \(Rockhampton\)](#), [WIN Shepparton \(Shepparton\)](#), [WIN Sunshine Coast \(Sunshine Coast\)](#), [WIN Toowoomba \(Toowoomba\)](#), [WIN Townsville \(Townsville\)](#), [WIN Wagga Wagga \(Wagga Wagga\)](#), [WIN Western Australia \(Perth\)](#), [WIN Wollongong \(Wollongong\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Adelaide\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Brisbane\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Perth\)](#), [Channel 9 Darwin \(Darwin\)](#), [Channel 9 Gold Coast \(Gold Coast North\)](#), [Imparja Alice Springs \(Alice Springs\)](#), [Imparja Longreach \(Longreach\)](#), [Imparja Mt Isa \(Mt Isa\)](#), [NBN Central Coast \(Gosford\)](#), [NBN Coffs Harbour \(Coffs Harbour\)](#), [NBN Gold Coast \(Gold Coast\)](#), [NBN Lismore \(Lismore\)](#), [NBN Newcastle Hunter \(Newcastle\)](#), [NBN Tamworth \(Tamworth\)](#), [NBN Taree \(Taree\)](#), [WIN Ballarat \(Ballarat\)](#), [WIN Bendigo \(Bendigo\)](#), [WIN Cairns \(Cairns\)](#), [WIN Canberra \(Canberra\)](#), [WIN Dubbo \(Dubbo\)](#), [WIN Gippsland \(Sale\)](#), [WIN Griffith \(Griffith\)](#), [WIN Hobart \(Hobart\)](#), [WIN Mackay \(Mackay\)](#), [WIN Mildura \(Mildura\)](#), [WIN Mt Gambier \(Mt Gambier\)](#), [WIN Orange](#)



(Orange), WIN Riverland (Berri), WIN Rockhampton (Rockhampton), WIN Shepparton (Shepparton), WIN Sunshine Coast (Sunshine Coast), WIN Toowoomba (Toowoomba), WIN Townsville (Townsville), WIN Wagga Wagga (Wagga Wagga), WIN Western Australia (Perth), WIN Wollongong (Wollongong)

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 28/10/2024, Peter Overton

Researchers from the University of NSW and the George Institute for Global Health have received funding from the Heart Foundation to create a method to assess a woman's heart disease risk during mammograms. Women are 12% less likely than men to receive heart checks from their general practitioners. A trial is due to begin next year.

Also reported by: [Channel 9 \(Melbourne\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), [Channel 9 \(Sydney\)](#), WIN Canberra (Canberra), WIN Dubbo (Dubbo), WIN Griffith (Griffith), WIN Orange (Orange), WIN Wagga Wagga (Wagga Wagga), WIN Wollongong (Wollongong), WIN Ballarat (Ballarat), WIN Bendigo (Bendigo), WIN Gippsland (Sale), WIN Mildura (Mildura), WIN Shepparton (Shepparton), WIN Canberra (Canberra), WIN Dubbo (Dubbo), WIN Griffith (Griffith), WIN Orange (Orange), WIN Wagga Wagga (Wagga Wagga), WIN Wollongong (Wollongong), WIN Canberra (Canberra), WIN Dubbo (Dubbo), WIN Griffith (Griffith), WIN Orange (Orange), WIN Wagga Wagga (Wagga Wagga), WIN Wollongong (Wollongong)

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## Channel 9, Nine News, 28/10/2024, Michael Thomson

Doctor Lauren Houston and her team have now received funding to implement the technology, which uses artificial intelligence to identify calcium build up within arteries in the breast. A trial is due to begin next year, first in New South Wales, followed by the rest of the country. [...] This is one of 66 pioneering research projects awarded almost \$14 million by the Heart Foundation, an investment that will help save more lives from heart disease.

Also reported by: WIN Western Australia (Perth)

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## ABC Radio Adelaide, Breakfast, 28/10/2024, Sonya Feldhoff & Jules Schiller

Interview with Max Adlam, state secretary, United Firefighters Union, on the risks firefighters face from exposure to toxic fumes and smoke. Adlam highlights that firefighters have a fourfold higher cancer risk than the general population and are often diagnosed younger. She advocates for expanding automatic compensations to include malignant mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases.

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[Back to Top](#)

## PRIMARY CARE

### Rural pharmacists forced to dispense with holidays

Age, General News, 29/10/2024, Benjamin Preiss, Page 10

It has been more than five years since Brett Phillips took a holiday from running his pharmacy in the northern Victorian town of Rochester. He is just too busy. On a typically flat-out day this week, Phillips served more than 200 customers.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#)

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### Hospital problems worse: union

Hobart Mercury, General News, 29/10/2024, Simon Mcguire, Page 11

Staff shortages have become worse over the past two years, and ramping is still a significant issue that is the assessment of conditions at the North West Regional Hospital by Health and Community Services Union Tasmanian secretary Robbie Moore. Coroner Olivia McTaggart recently handed down her findings into the death of 74-year-old Zeehan woman Jane Chapman in June 2022, after she suffered a fall in the hospital's emergency department.

## LGH opens \$16m helipad, first flights expected next week

Burnie Advocate, General News, 29/10/2024, Declan Durrant, Page 5

The Launceston General Hospital's new \$16 million helipad is officially complete. Newly-appointed Minister for Health Jacquie Petrusma, chief executive of Hospitals North Fiona Lieutier and Ambulance Tasmania chief executive Jordan Emery opened the site on Monday.

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## VAD, palliative care connection: Survey

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 29/10/2024, Page 4

The introduction of voluntary assisted dying (VAD) has not lessened the demand for palliative care, a new survey shows. Palliative Care Australia data reveals that 80 per cent of people choosing VAD are also receiving palliative care.

*Also reported by: [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).*

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## Pregnant with parental hope

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 28/10/2024, Wade Stephens, Page 5

The Victorian Government is eager to get more people in Sunraysia referred to the state's free public fertility care service. It has been two years since free public fertility care became available in Victoria, and more than a year since Mildura Base Public Hospital became a satellite location for the service.

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## New premier vows to act on youth crime

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 28/10/2024, Page 8

The election race is finally over, but David Crisafulli has hit the ground running as Queensland's next premier. The Liberal National Party leader ended Labor's nine-year reign after forming a majority government in the Queensland election on Saturday night.

*Also reported by: [Aged Care Insite \(Online\)](#).*

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## HCF gives in to NSW government demands on hospital bed rates

9News, Other, 28/10/2024, Emily McPherson

Private health insurer HCF has agreed to double the amount it pays for its members to use single rooms in NSW public hospitals in response to mounting pressure from the NSW government. Under the changes, the not-for-profit fund will pay the state government \$892 a day for a single NSW public hospital room, compared to the federal government rate of \$436 a day, which it was paying previously.

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## Mackay's health service says it has fixed maternity, gynaecology woes

ABC Online, Other, 28/10/2024, Sarah Simpkins

On an October afternoon three years ago, patient advocate Beryl Crosby picked up the phone to call the head of a public health service more than 600 kilometres away. It was a conversation that spectacularly led to the unravelling of the Mackay Hospital and Health Service (MHHS), including the sacking of its board and revelations that "inadequate care" contributed to the deaths of three babies.

[Read More](#)

## Social media emerges as a go-to resource for GPs seeking specialists

ABC Online, Other, 28/10/2024, Meagan Dillon

As a hobby while on maternity leave, Adelaide doctor Caitlin Sum started a social media group so specialists were easier to find. "When I set it up, I felt a little bit nervous that nobody would want to join but in fact it's been the opposite," she said.

## NT Health boss tells AMANT protest 'not acceptable' as minister backs out of medical conference

Adelaide Now, Other, 28/10/2024, Fia Walsh

NT health has told the union to rein in protesters unhappy with the government, leaked emails have revealed, prompting concerns of “Orwellian” overreach by the department. Protests were planned against Health Minister Steve Edgington by doctors concerned about the health impacts of some of the CLP’s crime and alcohol policies.

Also reported by: [Cairns Post \(Online\)](#), [Weekly Times Now \(Online\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Online\)](#), [Northern Territory News \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#), [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

## Calls to ditch 'dumb tax' on SA GPs

In Daily, Other, 28/10/2024

Additional costs are pushing South Australians away from seeing a general practitioner (GP) and towards the state's already crowded hospitals, warns one local doctor. The extra approximately \$10 added to a visit to the GP is particularly impacting vulnerable populations according to Dr Vikas Jasoria, who believes the tax is “counterintuitive” and detrimental to patient care.

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## Pharmacy services expand in the NT

Pharmacy Daily, Other, 28/10/2024

Community pharmacists in the Northern Territory can now provide a wider range of health services, following the state government's decision to expand scope of practice. Starting from today, a new Scheduled Substance Treatment Protocol means pharmacists across the state can diagnose and treat uncomplicated UTIs after completing approved training.

[Read More](#)

## UTI pharmacy prescribing goes nationwide

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 28/10/2024

More than 6000 community pharmacies across Australia can provide additional services and prescriptions under various state- and territory-run schemes. Patients in every state and territory across Australia can now bypass a GP and have their suspected urinary tract infection (UTI) diagnosed and treated by a pharmacist.

[Read More](#)

## Victorian public hospital complaints surge, urgent reforms needed

Shepparton News Online, Other, 28/10/2024

The number of complaints about public hospitals has surged by nearly 30 per cent over the past eight years. The 2023-24 Health Complaints Commissioner Annual Report revealed there were 1326 complaints directed to public hospitals — with only 217 directed towards private hospitals.

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## Stanhope Health a looking glass into future of regional healthcare

Shepparton News Online, Other, 28/10/2024, jemma Jones

Stanhope Health is on the forefront of a revolutionary medical strategy, with healthcare executives taking watch of the clinic's new Telecare program. On Thursday, October 10, Murray Primary Health Network chief executive Matt Jones visited Stanhope Health with Kyabram District Health Service chief executive Anne McEvoy to see how the clinic's new Telecare program had been progressing.

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## Australia's prescription model of vaping needs to be replaced by regulated retail sales

E-cigarettes are electronic devices that deliver nicotine in a vapour that is created by heating a liquid, such as propylene glycol, that contains nicotine. The vapour that can be inhaled is not risk-free, but it contains fewer toxins and carcinogens, and at far lower levels, than tobacco smoke.

[Read More](#)

## GPs urge new LNP government to prioritise affordable access to healthcare

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 28/10/2024

The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has congratulated the Crisafulli Government on its historic election win and is ready to collaborate with the government to make healthcare more accessible and affordable for Queenslanders. On Saturday, the LNP secured government for the third time in 35 years.

[Read More](#)

## 2GB, Mornings, 28/10/2024, Ray Hadley

Interview with Dr Rachel David, CEO, Private Healthcare Australia. Hadley reports HCF, a not-for-profit health fund, has agreed to pay the NSW government its full bed rate for members placed in single rooms at public hospitals. It follows the government's recent legislation allowing increased levies on private health insurers to recover lost revenue, which has led to criticism from the Australian Medical Association. David argues that the move is an 'opportunistic revenue grab' that could force families to pay more annually in premiums, potentially driving 75,000 people to drop their health coverage.

*Also reported by: 2CC (Canberra), 2GN (Goulburn), 2LT (Lithgow), Triple M Darling Downs (Toowoomba), Triple M Riverina (Wagga Wagga), XLFM (Cooma)*

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## FIVEAA, Breakfast, 28/10/2024, Will Goodings & David Penberthy

Interview with Professor Ken Pittman, oncologist, Western Hospital. Penberthy reports there are growing concerns over the discontinuation of oncology services at Western Hospital, which is causing distress among patients and staff. Nurses are now seeking alternative chemotherapy options for over 200 patients, as nearby hospitals are already at capacity. Pittman assures patients that follow-up consultations will continue, and he is committed to supporting them in finding other treatment locations.

*Also reported by: Channel 10 (Sydney)*

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[Back to Top](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

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[Back to Top](#)

## CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH WORKFORCE

### Kudos for junior regional doctor

Sunraysia Daily, General News, 28/10/2024, Allan Murphy, Page 2

A junior doctor who credits her training in Mildura as the best time of her medical degree has been

named the 2024 Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) Rural Doctor in Training of the Year. Dr Jessica Paynter was announced as the award recipient at the Rural Medicine Australia conference dinner in Darwin on Friday night in recognition of her efforts in rural health advocacy, supporting other junior doctors and medical students to study and work rurally and driving the development of quality research on rural surgery.

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## Spitting on doctors to trigger three-month prison sentence under new laws

Australian Doctor, Other, 28/10/2024, Carmel Sparke

Spitting on doctors, nurses, paramedics, police or other frontline workers will result in a minimum three-month prison term under harsher penalties being introduced in the NT. The spitting laws are part of a suite of law-and-order reforms promised by the Country Liberal Party when it was elected eight weeks ago.

[Read More](#)

## Workforce crisis forces GP to close practice that was her 'baby'

Australian Doctor, Other, 28/10/2024, Ciara Seccombe

Dr Jafrin Mannan opened her GP practice a few kilometres north of Newcastle in 2019, where at its peak it cared for almost 2000 patients. But the struggle to recruit doctors forced her to shut the doors this month and move to a new practice, even though the new practice was just a 15-minute drive away.

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[Back to Top](#)

## TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

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[Back to Top](#)

## MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

### If I was a young GP, I couldn't survive on bulk-billing without sausage-machine medicine or cheating the system

Australian Doctor, Other, 28/10/2024, Paul Nisselle

Why is 100% bulk-billing by GPs considered the Holy Grail for healthcare in Australia? We pay for food, water, clothing and shelter, which we need to survive.

[Read More](#)

### ABC Radio Perth, Statewide Mornings, 28/10/2024, Nadia Mitsopoulos

Interview with Dr Michael Page, pathologist and WA president of the AMA, on warnings that pathology providers may soon charge gap fees for tests due to stagnant Medicare rebates. Page says pathology funding has barely increased in 25 years, despite rising costs and inflation. He says minor indexation is insufficient and cuts to key tests like vitamin B12 further strain the system. He warns that patients might skip essential tests, risking delayed diagnoses and higher long-term healthcare costs.

*Also reported by: ABC Esperance (Esperance), ABC Goldfields WA (Kalgoorlie), ABC Great Southern (Albany), ABC Great Southern WA (Wagin), ABC Kimberley (Broome), ABC Midwest and Wheatbelt (Geraldton), ABC Pilbara (Karratha), ABC South West WA (Bunbury)*

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[Back to Top](#)

## BENEFITS INTEGRITY

## Crackdown call to stop 'shonky' super raids for cosmetic care

Age, General News, 29/10/2024, Sumeyya Ilanbey & Henrietta Cook, Page 5

A scheme designed to help chronically ill Australians pay for medical treatment is increasingly at risk of being abused by "shonky" and "greedy" practitioners, prompting calls from experts for a crackdown. The compassionate release of superannuation, administered by the Australian Taxation Office, allows eligible patients to withdraw their retirement savings to pay for certain procedures, but there are growing concerns a lack of checks and balances is fuelling potential rorts of the scheme.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Sydney\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

### Sexual health group drafting 'script' for patients to encourage GP doxy-PEP prescribing

Australian Doctor, Other, 28/10/2024, Rachel Fieldhouse

Patients seeking doxycycline as a 'morning-after pill' are being turned away by GPs, says a patient sexual health organisation. ACON — formerly the AIDS Council of NSW — is now drafting a letter for patients to take to appointments to encourage GPs to prescribe doxycycline as post-exposure prophylaxis (doxy-PEP).

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[Back to Top](#)

## SPORT

### No time for playing games

The Australian, Business News, 29/10/2024, Robert Gottliebssen, Page 25

New Queensland Premier David Crisafulli's most difficult task will be to prepare Brisbane for the 2032 Olympics. Since winning the Games in 2021, the Brisbane commercial building industry has been invaded by a combination of organised crime, bikies and radical union officials, which has lowered productivity by about one third.

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### Australian Sports Commission begins talent search to develop future Paralympians

ABC Online, Other, 28/10/2024

Nearly six months after the motorbike crash that changed his world, Daniel Forssman is adjusting to life as a wheelchair user. The 24-year-old Darwin man was paralysed during an accident while visiting Kakadu National Park with his mates.

[Read More](#)

### Channel 7, Sunrise, 28/10/2024, Natalie Barr & Matt Shirvington

David Crisafulli will be sworn in as Queensland's 41st Premier today after leading the LNP to victory in Saturday's state election, marking only the second win for the party since 1986. He has set strict deadlines for implementing key policies, including a 100-day review of the Brisbane 2032 Olympics to determine event locations and stadiums.

Also reported by: *Central GTS/BKN Port Lincoln (Port Lincoln), Central GTS/BKN Port Pirie (Spencer Gulf), Channel 7 (Adelaide), Channel 7 (Brisbane), Channel 7 (Melbourne), Channel 7 (Perth), Channel 7 Gold Coast (Gold Coast), Seven ACT (Canberra), Seven Albury (Albury), Seven Armidale (Armidale), Seven Ballarat (Ballarat), Seven Bendigo (Bendigo), Seven Bundaberg Wide Bay (Bundaberg), Seven Cairns (Cairns), Seven Central (Alice Springs), Seven Cooma (Cooma), Seven Darwin (Darwin), Seven Dubbo (Dubbo), Seven Gippsland (Sale), Seven Gold Coast (Gold Coast), Seven Griffith (Griffith), Seven Mackay (Mackay), Seven Mid*

North Coast (Coils Harbour), Seven Mildura (Mildura), Seven Moree (Moree), Seven Mt Isa (Mt Isa), Seven Newcastle (Newcastle), Seven North Coast (Lismore), Seven Orange (Orange), Seven Regional WA (Perth), Seven Rockhampton (Rockhampton), Seven Shepparton (Shepparton), Seven Sunshine Coast (Sunshine Coast), Seven Swan Hill (Swan Hill), Seven Tamworth (Tamworth), Seven Taree (Manning River), Seven Tasmania (Hobart), Seven Toowoomba (Toowoomba), Seven Townsville (Townsville), Seven Wagga Wagga (Wagga Wagga), Seven Warrnambool (Warrnambool), Seven Wollongong (Wollongong), Ten GTS/BKN Broken Hill (Port Pirie)

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[Back to Top](#)

## HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

### Simple blood test for diagnosis

Toowoomba Chronicle, General News, 29/10/2024, Suzan Delibasic, Page 8

A simple and cost effective blood test will be able to detect Alzheimer's disease quicker and more accurately, Melbourne researchers have found. The Herald Sun can reveal Florey researchers and Australian research volunteers have evaluated a new diagnostic blood test for Alzheimer's as part of a new study and found it to be a reliable measure of the disease's presence and stage.

Also reported by: [Toowoomba Chronicle \(Online\)](#), [7news.com.au \(Online\)](#).

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### Researchers study treatment for chronic pain in childhood cancer survivors

The Guardian, Other, 28/10/2024, Tobi Thomas

Treatments that could help alleviate the chronic pain experienced by thousands of childhood cancer survivors are being investigated by scientists and researchers in the UK. About eight out of 10 children survive their cancer for 10 years or more but more than half of them report delayed and ongoing pain in adulthood.

Also reported by: [Daily Mail Australia \(Online\)](#).

[Read More](#)

### Do IUDs cause breast cancer? Here's what the evidence says

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 28/10/2024

A study has found a link between the devices and breast cancer, and while the research is important, it may be causing unnecessary worry. Researchers tracked nearly 80,000 people who started hormonal IUDs across two decades.

[Read More](#)

### Polycystic ovary syndrome needs better management: study

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 28/10/2024

Lifestyle management in polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) needs to reduce weight stigma, because for some people living with it, overly focusing on weight loss can negatively impact their mental health and wellbeing, a Monash University-led systematic review has found. Published in Obesity Reviews, the research review found weight stigma was a barrier to women seeking treatment for PCOS and health professionals need to be better educated about it.

[Read More](#)

### Channel 9, Nine News, 28/10/2024, Brenton Ragless & Kate Collins

A simple blood test could transform Alzheimer's treatment. Researchers at Melbourne's Florey Institute have developed a test that they believe is over 90% accurate in detecting the disease. The test can be conducted using standard clinical pathology equipment and is expected to cost just \$100.

Also reported by: WIN Mt Gambier (Mt Gambier), WIN Riverland (Berri)

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## 3AW, Breakfast, 28/10/2024, Ross Stevenson & Russel Howcroft

Interview with Professor Christopher Rowe, Alzheimer's researcher, the Florey Institute. Rowe says a new blood test for Alzheimer's disease can confirm the diagnosis in symptomatic individuals and detect the disease process even in asymptomatic people. He says the new test, with over 90% accuracy, is a major improvement over current diagnostic methods that only achieve about 70% accuracy.

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[Back to Top](#)

## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH

No relevant coverage

[Back to Top](#)

## INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

### Vaccination rate falls again for kids

Northern Territory News, General News, 29/10/2024, Page 4

Vaccination coverage rates among children in Australia have declined for the third consecutive year. The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance report shows that in 2023, fully vaccinated coverage rates for children overall decreased at all three standard age assessment milestones: 12 months (to 92.8 per cent from 94.8 per cent in 2020), 24 months (to 90.8 per cent from 92.1 per cent in 2020) and 60 months (to 93.3 per cent from 94.8 per cent in 2020).

*Also reported by:* [Geelong Advertiser \(Geelong\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Gold Coast Bulletin \(Gold Coast\)](#), [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#), [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#).

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[Back to Top](#)

## THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

### Montu starts action over Age story

Age, General News, 29/10/2024, Liam Mannix, Page 3

Australia's biggest medicinal cannabis company has launched legal action against The Age, demanding it take down a story revealing allegations the company was unlawfully advertising its products. [...] In April, the Therapeutic Goods Administration began Federal Court action against Montu and its cannabis telehealth clinic, Alternaleaf, accusing them of unlawfully advertising cannabis using terms including "medical cannabis" and "plant medicine".

*Also reported by:* [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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### Are you prepared for the paracetamol regulation changes?

Australian Pharmacist, Other, 28/10/2024, Chloe Hava

From 1 February 2025, pack sizes of paracetamol will change, with larger quantities (50 plus in most jurisdictions) shifting to Schedule 3 following the final decision on paracetamol access controls made by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) on 3 May 2023. Why are the changes occurring? In short, the TGA changes aim to reduce the volume of paracetamol which is kept in people's homes.

[Read More](#)

### Medical devices impacted by 3G shutdown

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Other, 28/10/2024

As of 28 October, Telstra and Optus have switched off their third-generation networks. The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has reminded GPs to speak to their patients about the 3G network

shutdown, warning it could impact their medical devices.

[Read More](#)

## Telcos turn off 3G network

The Mandarin, Other, 28/10/2024, Dan Holmes

The 3G shutdown could affect more than 740,000 devices, according to Australia's major telecommunications companies. [...] Medical devices may be affected The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) issued advice in August that medical devices would be affected by the 3G shutdown.

[Read More](#)

## Channel 7, Seven News, 28/10/2024, Peter Mitchell

Melbourne researchers have developed a simple blood test for early detection of Alzheimer's disease, promising faster and more effective treatment for nearly 300,000 Australians affected by the condition. A study of 388 patients showed the test is 92% accurate and can also assess the disease's progress. While the new Alzheimer's drug lecanemab has shown promise abroad, it was recently rejected by the TGA, prompting calls for a reversal of the decision.

Also reported by: [Channel 7 \(Sydney\)](#), [Seven Ballarat \(Ballarat\)](#), [Seven Bendigo \(Bendigo\)](#), [Seven Darwin \(Darwin\)](#), [Seven Gippsland \(Sale\)](#), [Seven Mildura \(Mildura\)](#), [Seven Shepparton \(Shepparton\)](#), [Seven Swan Hill \(Swan Hill\)](#), [Seven Warrnambool \(Warrnambool\)](#), [Seven ACT \(Canberra\)](#), [Seven Armidale \(Armidale\)](#), [Seven Cooma \(Cooma\)](#), [Seven Dubbo \(Dubbo\)](#), [Seven Griffith \(Griffith\)](#), [Seven Mid North Coast \(Coffs Harbour\)](#), [Seven Moree \(Moree\)](#), [Seven Newcastle \(Newcastle\)](#), [Seven Taree \(Manning River\)](#), [Seven Wollongong \(Wollongong\)](#)

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## 2GB, Breakfast, 28/10/2024, Ben Fordham

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) plans to reduce the number of Panadol capsules in each packet, decreasing the maximum size for general sale from 20 to 16 capsules. The change is part of a series of modifications to paracetamol packaging announced by the agency.

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[Back to Top](#)

## OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

### It's been 12 months since small amounts of illicit drugs were decriminalised in the ACT

ABC Online, Other, 28/10/2024, Monte Bovill

It's just before midnight on a Thursday night in the centre of Canberra. Music is blaring from the city's nightclubs, and cheaper drinks and free entry into venues are on offer as part of 'uni night'.

[Read More](#)

## ABC, Q and A, 28/10/2024, Patricia Karvelas

Panel discussion with Minister for Health Mark Butler, Melbourne GP Preeya Alexander, Independent MP Monique Ryan, former NSW minister Bronnie Taylor, and journalist Johann Hari. Alexander says GPs are leaving the profession due to stagnant Medicare rebates and rising costs. Butler notes the recent Medicare rebate increases and tripling of bulk billing incentives, stressing the need to attract medical graduates to general practice. He addresses concerns from pharmacists about changes to vaping regulations and the lack of TGA-approved vapes. He details new requirements for pre-approval for vapes imported into Australia, noting they will require a license from the Office of Drug Control.

Panel discussion continues on: [ABC \(Sydney\)](#), [ABC \(Adelaide\)](#), [ABC \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC \(Perth\)](#), [ABC \(Regional NSW\)](#), [ABC \(Regional Queensland\)](#), [ABC \(Regional Victoria\)](#), [ABC \(Adelaide\)](#), [ABC \(Brisbane\)](#), [ABC \(Canberra\)](#), [ABC \(Hobart\)](#), [ABC \(Melbourne\)](#), [ABC \(Perth\)](#), [ABC \(Regional NSW\)](#), [ABC \(Regional Queensland\)](#), [ABC \(Regional Victoria\)](#)

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## 2CC, Canberra Live, 28/10/2024, Leon Delaney

Today marks one year since the ACT decriminalised small amounts of illicit drugs like heroin, cocaine, MDMA, and methamphetamine. A recent report notes a rise in fatal overdoses over the past year, but health experts and ACT police believe this increase is unrelated to decriminalisation. They point to shifts in the black market, including the rise of potent nitazenes and synthetic opioids, as the main drivers.

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[Back to Top](#)

## FOOD STANDARDS

### Expert says E. coli outbreak in US McDonald's stores is unlikely to happen in Australia

ABC Online, Other, 28/10/2024, Luke Cooper

A growing outbreak of E. coli linked to McDonald's hamburgers sold in the United States has landed the multinational in court, and a food safety expert has since weighed in on the possibility of a similar incident happening in Australia. [...] The federal government regulates the national hospitality sector with the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code and the Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991.

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[Back to Top](#)

## AICIS

### Australia's top neurologists call for chemical regulator to ban paraquat herbicide over links with Parkinson's disease

ABC Online, Other, 28/10/2024, Andy Burns & Nathan Morris

Dozens of pre-eminent neurologists in Australia are calling on the chemical regulator to ban paraquat, a controversial herbicide that has been linked to the development of Parkinson's disease. Paraquat is a widely used weedkiller and has been under review by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority for 27 years

[Read More](#)

### Drinking water safety guidelines in Australia revised for 'human health considerations'

SBS, Other, 28/10/2024, Biwa Kwan

From firefighting foam to household items, such as nonstick pans and stain-resistant fabrics, so-called forever chemicals or PFAS have been used widely since the 1950s. Research and testing has now shown the group of 14,000 chemicals, which take a long time to break down, can be found in the environment.

[Read More](#)

## ABC Radio Hobart, Breakfast, 28/10/2024, Jo Spargo

Australian neurologists are urging a ban on the herbicide paraquat, citing its links to Parkinson's disease. Dr David Blacker, a WA neurologist who was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2018, suspects his condition could be tied to childhood exposure to paraquat. While agriculture groups defend paraquat's role in food production, Dr Blacker and over 40 specialists note its broader public health and environmental risks. The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority is reviewing the herbicide, though both the regulator and manufacturer deny a proven causal link to Parkinson's.

Also reported by: [ABC Radio Brisbane \(Brisbane\)](#)

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